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SUBJECT: Media Reaction Rio de Janeiro: The U.S. Bases and Intervention

The U.S. bases and intervention

Rio-based center-left daily Jornal do Brasil writes: "The revelation made by JB regarding the doubts about the real use of the bases... [by the U.S. in Colombia] sheds light on an old discussion. Ultimately, what differentiates an installation for observation versus a platform for intervention? ... Specialists cited in the story uncover the veil that the ambiguity tries to hide: without a clear point of reference, the argument for 'right to self defense' could justify... a military operation in neighboring territories. The theory of 'preventive wars' is not new, it's been used in the Middle East for ages and the U.S. has also used it in the two interventions in Iraq. The subtle difference in the type of agreement negotiated between Washington and Bogota justifies in part the belligerent speech of Venezuelan President Hugo Ch????vez regarding the issue... Before the signing of this agreement with President ?????lvaro Uribe, the U.S. kept its presence in the heart of South America operating from the base of Manta... Officially, the base was used by the Americans to look for arms and drug traffickers trying to infiltrate the country through the Gulf of Mexico. But nothing would have kept it from being used for logistical and operational support to the helicopters and jets that decimated a FARC camp 13km from the country's border... The American bases in Colombia are the American stage from which to act in the so-called 'critical sub-region,' the South America threatened by drugs, misery, terrorism, anti-Americanism and the recurrence of natural disasters. Even with the government's guarantees of a non-interventionist presence, it is hard to believe entirely in these intentions in light of the official document cited by the newspaper. After all, unconventional threats are the main worries of the strategists." (Nov 22, page A8)
HEARNE